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about the way in which this decision
was given was the vigour with which
the Lord Chief Justice asserted the in-
herent right of his court to move with the
world, and to differ, if need be, from the
reasoning, although they were bound by
the decisions, of their predecessors. Such
expressions as the following are very nota-
ble:—“No man can have a greater respect
than I have for any decision of that learned
judge (Littledale J.): upon a question
of pleading; but I cannot be bound by his
ideas of public policy or public interest.”
“When judges forget notorious matters of
fact in the reasons they assign for their
judgments they are likely to fall into error.”
and when pressed to “follow his predeces-
sors,” “Not by their reasons if we think
them wrong. We cannot shut our eyes to
actual facts and the course of events.” The
Lord Chief Justice has been occasionally cri-
ticised for some of his performances, and we
do not deny that he is at times too rhetorical,
or that he gives occasion to men who are
his inferiors in every sense, and in particu-
lar in industry and technical knowledge, to
represent him as a mere advocate, and no
lawyer. This we regard as totally untrue;
but, all events, he is a man who knows how
the world is moving, and who can look at
facts, not as a lawyer merely, but as a
statesman, a scholar, and a man of the
world; and when these gifts are added to
the great industry and knowledge of law
which they occasionally conceal from nar-
row minds, they produce a not result far
beyond anything at which the Little-
dale of our own or the past generation
ever even aimed at or could understand.

LOCAL

TODAY'S POLICE.

Mr May on the Bench. This morning
was devoted chiefly to the disposal of a
number of “wells and strays,” and gam-
bling gentry.

Inspector Grey charged seven cow-keepers
under somewhat peculiar circumstances.
It would appear, from information obtained
by the Inspector, that in a house in Second
Street, West Point, the prisoners and
others congregated for the purpose of gam-
bling; and that, in order as much as possi-
ble to avoid detection, they stake their
sums and put them down as so much
against the value of cows. This informa-
tion came to the Inspector's knowledge by
one of the losers (a lodger in the house)
reporting the circumstance at the Station.
Upon this statement, the house was last
night entered by a party of police; twelve
men were found gambling, “po-taze” being
the game carried on. Four of the accused

was under the impression that Mr Douglas
had seen the men.

Inspector Grimes charged another batch
of seventeen Chinese with having caused a
disturbance at or near the Theatre in Tai-
pingshan last night. The Inspector said
that a number of stones and broken bricks
were thrown from a house on to the roof
of the theatre; the defendants were appre-
hended in the house, and the first (who
struggled hard to get away) had two half-
bricks in his hands when taken. All (2nd
included) denied the charge; and His Wor-
ship fined 2nd defendant \$10, or one
month's hard labor—others discharged.

An Indian boy was charged by Sikh
P. C. 280 with having cut down or broken a
beautiful little ever-green tree from the
road near the Wong-nei-chong, and swore
he saw him do so.—Evidence was produced
to show that the boy was sick with fever
at the time the offence was said to have
been committed; and a sergeant of police
stated that the Sikh told him that it was a
Chinaman who told him the boy broke the
tree.—Indian boy was at once dis-
charged; and his Worship said that the
only thing which prevented him from pun-
ishing the Sikh policeman very severely,
for what he morally believed was deliberate
falsehood, was, that locally he could not
exactly satisfy his mind beyond doubt on
the point; No. 280, however, was advised
to be careful.

Chun Akow, a Hakka grass-cutting for-
mal, was also charged with having, in com-
pany with some three or four men, cut
down some trees in the morning from the
valley. One of the villagers deposed to
having seen her lopping off the branches;
but the woman refused to acknowledge the
offence, and stoutly maintained that she
was only cutting grass—she would have
run after the men had she cut the trees.—
His Worship fined her \$1, and remarked
upon the fact that the villagers did not run
after the men who cut down trees and bring
them to the Police.—The Wong-nei-chong
villager said that the men ran too fast, and
up the hill, where they were not easily
followed.—His Worship assured the vil-
lagers that any men caught in the “red-
hand” of cutting trees by any of the vil-
lagers would be flogged, and the villagers
catching them would be rewarded.

THE FUTURE OF THE AUSTRALIAN COLONIES.

(The Australasian, Nov. 14.)

If a stranger were asked to name the
most striking characteristic of the Austral-
ian colonies, he would certainly say, ener-
gy, and it is the prime quality to enable a
population, which, through geographical
circumstances may be pioneer of empire, to

ca, on the side, and of Queensland on the
other, with the sultry and unhealthy char-
acter of the parallel regions on both sides
of the Atlantic. Climate, as we know, ex-
ercises the main influence in moulding the
genius and destiny of nations. Precisely
the same natural influences exist in the
South Pacific as in the Aegean archipelago,
and when a more vigorous and more intel-
lectual race takes the place of the present
Polynesians, or is commingled with them,
amid scenery as picturesque and in air as
sweet as those of the Cyclades, who can
prognosticate what peculiar gifts and
graces time may not there also reproduce
in man? “History does not put new
wine into old bottles,” and it may be that
in those now wild islands of the South Seas
the artistic genius of the future will exhibit
its highest flights and most delicate beauty.

But to leave the speculative, and return
to sober matter of fact, let us consider the
strange and momentous changes which are
afoot in the countries surrounding the
Pacific, both north and south, and all oc-
curring in our day, in the present genera-
tion. While the Englishman is rapidly
peopling Australia, New Zealand, and
Vancouver's Island; the Yankee, Cali-
fornia and Oregon; the Russian, the
lately desolate Amur territory; and the
Spaniard, in Chili and Peru, raising
from his long lethargy, is restoring a vitality
unwitnessed there since the days of the In-
cas—while the man of European blood is
doing all this, China, and more masculine
Japan, with their immemorial civilisation,
awakened up an immemorially from intercourse
with the outer world, are throwing their
doors open at just the same moment to swell
the new life and bustle which are awaken-
ing this hitherto secluded ocean. In view
of all this suddenly begun and fast-increas-
ing traffic, of this various nation-building
and nation-opening around its shores, of
the dissimilar and bounteous resources of
all these regions, of the multitude of these
new markets of supply and of demand, and
of the unrivalled advantages of the cli-
mate as a whole, both for production and
navigation—who, we say, can think too
enthusiastically of the future near at hand
for the Pacific and the countries which con-
stitute its basin? It may yet become the
world's greatest highway; it cannot fail to
become the theatre of great events; and in
these no other people are calculated by
position to play so leading a part as Aus-
tralians. Amid the merely local, and too
often paltry, topics and contentions which
occupy the public mind in these colonies,
it is well sometimes to expand our view and
enlarge our hearts by looking a little ahead.
The spectacle of a great future, of a noble
destiny proffered by nature, ought to
dignify the spirit of a people, and that

disturbing its otherwise peaceful repose, and
likewise that he should take his wife with
him, the chief considering that he (Schafer)
was a legally married, according to the
Maori custom, as if he had been married by
a priest. Schafer's wife's friends refused to
allow her to go with him, and he refused to
leave the settlement without his things be-
ing returned. Before this noted trial took
place, Mrs. Ropata, we may observe, accus-
ed the illustrious German stranger of being
very partial to ladies' society, and accounted
for the disagreement that had been caused
between his wife and himself through jeal-
ously on her part. Returning to the trial,
it was shown in the course of evidence that
Schafer had been supplied with a whare,
and that he had furnished nothing towards
his own and his wife's support beyond the
few things already mentioned. The jury
then retired into the open air to consider
their verdict, and after a short deliberation
unanimously decided:—1. That Lizzy
should retain the ring. 2. That the shawl
utensils should be retained by Mrs. Ropata.
They also decided that the £2 should not be
returned to Schafer, and that Schafer was
not entitled to the blankets; that Schafer
should leave the settlement on the following
day, and that he should be taken by the
Maories, in a canoe, on board the steamer
Clyde. The verdict was delivered in both
English and Maori, and appeared to give
very general satisfaction. The party then
adjourned to Ropata's house, in the pre-
sence of Schafer and Lizzy, and examined
Schafer's box, in which the shawl was dis-
covered, which was given to Lizzy. The
boxes were then carried by two of the jury
to Schafer's whare. We must not omit to
mention that the whole proceedings connected
with this memorable trial were conducted
with the most rigid decorum.”

GENERAL GRANT.

The New York correspondent of the Lon-
don Morning Herald remarks:—

General Grant has arrived in Washington
having made a progress through the states
between that capital and Ontario. He was
received all along the route in a torpid
manner, as is invariable when he meets his
fellow-citizens. His aspect is so very chilly
and his manner so awkward, that his ab-
sence seems to be the first condition of excit-
ing any enthusiasm for him. It is generally
given out, indeed, that he dislikes displays
in his honour. In Washington his advent
created no agitation whatever, except
among those who are living in a cheerful
looking-for-of offices at his hands. He has
so far out-manoeuvred these gentry, and
kept his home his castle, yesterday declin-

to think that it was his personal popularity
that impelled the people to give the Rad-
ical ticket a majority so decided, but rather
that it was due to their indorsement of
Congress and its policy. So says Grant's
brother.

AMERICAN CHILDREN—THE PHI- LOSOHY OF PRECOCIITY.

(From the Bulletin.)

American children are undoubtedly pre-
cocious. I think this peculiarity, though
partly owing to the quickening effect of
climate, is due to some extent to the Ame-
rican practice of bringing children to the
table from their infancy. A New England
lady, who boasted of eleven children, (a
very rare thing in New England), told me
that every one of them had been brought
to the table at seven months old, and at
thirteen months could handle their forks
as neatly as she could! Brought to the
table so soon, and hearing all that goes on,
they begin at a preternaturally early age to
take an interest in general affairs, and to
acquire the ideas and language of grown
people. An old doctor of divinity in Can-
ada said that, calling one day at a friend's
house, a little girl was sent in to amuse him
till her mamma was ready. The child told
him, among other things, that she had been
writing a parody on King Lear's song of the
“Three Flahers”; but, when drying it at
the open fire, it dropped from her hand and
was burned. “Burned!” exclaimed the
doctor, “if I had been the fire I should
have stopped till you had got it out again!”
“O no doctor,” said the child, gravely, “you
could not have done that. Nature, you
know, is nature, and her laws are invio-
lable!” It nearly knocked the doctor off
his chair.

I remember one day at dinner—this was
in the state of New York—being amused at
the exquisite combination of epicureanism
and forethought on the part of a little boy
of nine. “Mother,” said he, “give me only
a little of the mince pie, as I shall want to
taste the pudding.”

The children's remarks on political sub-
jects tickle me most, for the reason, perhaps,
that I have so rarely heard anything of the
sort from children at home. A small boy
of eight will stand up to you, and say—
“What do you think, sir, of the state of
the country?”

I remember being amused, beyond ex-
pression, at one little boy in Brooklyn,
who, during the time of the impeachment
trial, began, one evening at supper, to up-
braid his father for having supported An-
drew Johnson.

In one of my former papers I spoke of a
little Canadian girl, who, in the midst of a
conversation on politics, threw in her opin-
ion that Canada should have had Maine and

wardrobe as if he would have knocked them
off their hinges. His mother, fearful that
he would do mischief, either to himself, or
to the furniture, and remembering that the
house was not hers, took him out and said,
in great distress:

“Oh, George, I don't know what to do
with you!”

“Don't you?” said he, looking up into her
face.

“No, indeed I don't.” Then, said he, “if
that is so, I'll behave,” which he accord-
ingly did, marching into the other room with
her, and conducting himself for the rest of
the evening like a little gentleman. She
had capitulated—given up the struggle for
authority. He was now behaving on his
own responsibility.

This case suggests another which illus-
trates the same point, but has a grotesque
feature of its own. A gentleman in North-
ampton with whom I spent a very delight-
ful week, and who belongs to one of the old
Puritan families, told me that for several
years he had tried whipping with his boy,
but found it ineffectual. On one occasion
the boy was caught in an oft-repeated fault.
His father took him to his room; upbraided
him for his persistent disobedience; remind-
ed him (which was probably unnecessary)
that he had several times been obliged in
the way of parental duty, to apply the rod
of correction; that it seemed to have as yet
been in vain; that he was much dishearten-
ed, and was at a loss what to do with him.
A bright thought occurred to the boy.
“Father,” said he, “suppose you pray.” The
father was a good man, and could not re-
fuse to do this. But having a strong suspi-
cion in his mind that the boy had pre-
sented this Christian exercise in order to escape
punishment, he prayed for the young reprob-
ate first, and whipped him afterwards.
He told me, however, that he had never
been able to make anything of the boy till he
gave up flogging and appealed to the boy's
sense of what was right and proper.

This seemed to be a general experience in
the States. In most of the American
schools whipping is discontinued, and in
many cases prohibited by law; and yet I
can testify from my own observation, that
the order maintained in these schools is
more perfect than I have ever seen in
similar schools elsewhere. The pre-
cocuity of American children and the demo-
cratic ideas that pervade society and filter
down even into the minds of the youngest,
account, probably for three facts—first, that
American parents, guardians and teachers
do not expect the same reverence and un-
questionable obedience that is looked for
and inculcated with us; second, that the
children there will not be governed by mere
authority and force; and third, that happi-
ly, as a counterpoise, they become at an

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Insurances.

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.
(LIFE DEPARTMENT.)

INCREASE OF LIMIT.

THE Undersigned have received *Extended Limits*, and are now authorized to accept RISKS and to issue Life Policies for Sums not exceeding £2,000 without reference to the Head Office.

ROB. S. WALKER & Co.,
Agents.

Hongkong, January 19, 1869. tf

NOTICE.

THE Undersigned having received extended limits from THE ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY, are now authorised to issue Policies against FIRE as follows, viz. —

On any one first-class Building, or on Goods stored therein — in Hongkong, \$60,000; in Macao \$45,000.

ROB. S. WALKER & Co.,
Agents Royal Insur. Company of Liverpool.
Hongkong, June 17, 1864.

REDUCTION
IN THE RATES OF PREMIUM FOR
FIRE INSURANCE.

THE Undersigned have (as already intimated in their Circular dated 14th October last) received authority from the *Underwriters of the ROYAL INSURANCE*

Co., the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. in place of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per Annum as hitherto charged; and in cases of Residences, so situated, being detached or semi-detached, the rate will be further reduced to *one-half per cent.*

The Royal's Annual Rates for FIRE INSURANCE on the various classes of Buildings and their contents will therefore remain as follows, until further notice, viz. —

Detached and semi-detached
Dwelling-Houses (removed from the Town) and their Contents, ½ per cent.

Other *Dwelling-Houses* (similarly situated) and their Contents, ¾ per cent.

First Class *China House* and their Contents, 1½ per cent.

Other Risks as per special arrangement.

ROB. S. WALKER & Co.,
Agents Royal Insurance Company.
Hongkong, November 9, 1866.

CHINA TRADERS' INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

SHAREHOLDERS in the above Company are requested to furnish the Undersigned with a list of Premia contributed by them up to the 31st October last, to afford the distribution of the 25 per cent. Profit reserved for the Contributors to the Company.

AUGUSTINE HEARD & Co.,
General Agents.

Hongkong, January 2, 1869. fe2

PACIFIC INSURANCE COMPANY OF SAN FRANCISCO.

THE Undersigned, Agents for the above Company, are prepared to grant Policies against FIRE, on BUILDINGS and GOODS, at current rates.

RUSSELL & Co.,
Hongkong, February 6, 1867.

BATAVIA SEA & FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents in Hongkong for the above named COMPANY are prepared to grant Policies against SEA RISKS, at current rates.

RUSSELL & Co.,
Hongkong, April 1, 1865.

YANG-TSZE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF SHANGHAI.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Secretaries and Agents of this Association, are prepared to issue Policies upon Marine Risks at current rates of premium. Policies can be made payable in London, New York, Bombay, Calcutta, Singapore, Hongkong, Foochow and Shanghai.

In addition to the usual brokerage this Association returns to the assured of each year fifteen (15) per cent of the profits of the Company for that year divided pro rata to the amount of premium paid by each policy-holder.

RUSSELL & Co.,
Hongkong, March 2, 1867. tf.

PACIFIC INSURANCE COMPANY OF SAN FRANCISCO.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents in China for the above INSURANCE COMPANY are prepared to grant Policies by covering Marine Risks, at the current rates.

RUSSELL & Co.,
Hongkong, July 6, 1866.

[SAMARANJ SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF SAMARANJ.]

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents in Macao for the above named Company are prepared to grant Policies against SEA RISKS at the usual terms.

SIEMSEN & Co.,
Hongkong, August 1866.

NOTICE.

NORTHERN ASSURANCE COMPANY.

FROM and after this date the following Rates will be charged for Short Period Insurances:—

Not exceeding one month,	½ of the Annual rate.
Above one month and not exceeding 3 months,	¾ " " " "
Above 3 months and not exceeding 6 months,	¾ " " " "
Above 6 months,	¾ the full annual rate.

TURNER & Co.,
Agents.

Hongkong, April 19, 1868.

